

VZCZCXRO1041
OO RUEHCHI RUEHCN RUEHDT RUEHHM
DE RUEHJA #1469/01 2140724
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 010724Z AUG 08
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9684
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 0047
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0280
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5250
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 2842
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1164
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 0086
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 2064
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 4775
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0228
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2297
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 2901
RUEHBAD/AMCONSUL PERTH 1005
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 2852
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHHJJPI/USPACOM HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 JAKARTA 001469

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR EAP, EAP/MTS, EAP/MLS, EAP/RSP, PM, PM/PPA
(FEATHERSTONE)
SECDEF FOR USDP/ISA/APSA D.WALTON
NSC FOR E.PHU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/01/2018
TAGS: PREL MARR KPKO ID XF
SUBJECT: LEBANON PEACEKEEPING: INDONESIA EXPANDS
CONTRIBUTION

REF: A. JAKARTA 1390
1B. JAKARTA 593 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Pol/C Joseph L. Novak, reasons 1.4(b+d).

11. (C) SUMMARY: Indonesia has sent a 75-person military police force to augment UNIFIL in Lebanon. It also plans to send a 200-person military Force Protection Unit in coming months. These contributions are in addition to the GOI's 850-person peacekeeping battalion which is already stationed in Lebanon. These new deployments--plus the planned deployment to Darfur--underscore Indonesia's continued commitment to international peacekeeping. END SUMMARY.

NEW FORCE ON WAY TO LEBANON

12. (U) The Indonesian government has sent a 75-person contingent of military police to Lebanon to join the United Nations International Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The contingent is drawn from the three main services of the Indonesian military (TNI) and includes four women. (Note: Military police enforce discipline within military units, including their contact with the civilian population.) According to TNI headquarters, Lebanese Prime Minister Siniora had put the request for UNIFIL reinforcements to Indonesian President Yudhoyono in a meeting held on the margins of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Dakar, Senegal in March.

13. (C) In an August 1 discussion with DepPol/C, Riando Sembiring, Head of Peacekeeping Affairs in the Office of International Security and Disarmament at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DEPLU), explained that this was the first contingent of Indonesian military police to participate in UNIFIL. The military police mission, serving the UNIFIL

operation as a whole, had previously been performed by troops from other participating countries. The mission had become vacant and Indonesia had offered to take its turn. Like Indonesia's main Garuda XXIII battalion (850-person strong) already in Lebanon, the military-police deployment would have a one-year duration.

MORE ON THE WAY

¶4. (C) Indonesia's contribution will broaden further in coming months. According to Sembiring, the GOI is preparing to send a Force Protection Unit of 200 soldiers to Lebanon to protect UNIFIL headquarters. The arrangement would be similar to that of the GOI's military police, he explained, in that other nations had provided troops previously and Indonesia was now taking its turn. The unit was in pre-deployment training and was slated to be sent to Lebanon in September. Its tour of duty would be one year.

¶5. (C) Sembiring confirmed that Indonesia intended to continue to supply peacekeeping troops to UNIFIL. Although the government had not made a formal decision yet, it was likely that in late 2008 a fresh Indonesian battalion would replace the Garuda XXIII battalion now in Lebanon, he added.

A SUSTAINED CONTRIBUTION

¶6. (C) As reviewed above, the latest deployment is part of a series of substantive Indonesian contributions to UNIFIL since its creation in 2006. The UNIFIL deployment now ranks

JAKARTA 00001469 002 OF 002

as one of Indonesia's largest peacekeeping operations ever. Peacekeeping historically has been a mainstay of Indonesia's contribution to international security, a role that continues to grow. These new deployments--plus the planned deployment to Darfur (see ref a)--underscore Indonesia's continued commitment to international peacekeeping.

HUME